NREGS in tribal districts of Orissa

246. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided not to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to other districts in the country;

(b) whether scheme has been afflicted with certain maladies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the total number of districts in Orissa where this scheme has since been launched; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to extend the scheme to other backward tribal dominated districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) In the first phase of implementation of NREG Act, 200 districts have been identified. Section 1(3) of the NREG Act provides that the Act has to be extended to the entire country within a period of five years from the date of enactment of the Act.

(b) and (c) No Sir. However, individual complaints and difficulties wherever noticed, are brought into the notice of the concerned State for immediate action.

(d) 19 districts of Orissa have been covered in the first phase of NREG Act.

(e) The Ministry is monitoring the implementation of NREG Act in the 200 districts and there is a need to continue with this process of interaction and feedback from them so that an action plan for extending the Act to more districts can be formulated.

Expansion of Rajasthan desert towards Delhi

247. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rajasthan Desert is rapidly moving towards Delhi;